



M/V EL FARO



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Seventh Coast Guard District Search and Rescue



M/V EL FARO
October 6, 2015



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Initial Timeline

- (7:33 AM/01OCT) – RCC Miami received an INMARSAT C/SASS alert, and a 406MHZ EPIRB from the M/V EL FARO. RCC Miami established communications with the vessel's security officer who indicated the M/V EL FARO was taking on water through an open scuttle, which caused the vessel to list at 15 degrees. The scuttle was secured and they were attempting to dewater, but the vessel was disabled. The M/V EL FARO's last known position was 36NM northeast of ACKLINS/CROOKED ISLANDS.
- RCC Miami directed USAF Hurricane Tracking HC-130 to conduct a fly over of the last known position, and make callouts. The USAF Hurricane Tracker did so with negative results.
- CG Miami directed launch of AIRCLR C-130 to conduct a first light search on 02 OCT to locate the M/V EL FARO. Additional flights were thwarted by weather; RCC Miami worked to position assets best to support search efforts once storm moved NW. USAF Hurricane Hunter C-130 conducted 06 call outs.
- RCC Miami was in constant contact with the ship's security officer.
- The M/V EL FARO has 33 persons on board, 28 US citizens and 5 Polish nationals.





Assets Utilized During Search Efforts



CG MH-60



CG HC-144



CG HC-130



CG MH-65



CGC NORTHLAND



CGC RESOLUTE



CGC CHARLES SEXTON



USAF HC-130



USN P-8



JSTARS



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Challenging Search Conditions

Hurricane force winds caused significant sea spray & white caps.



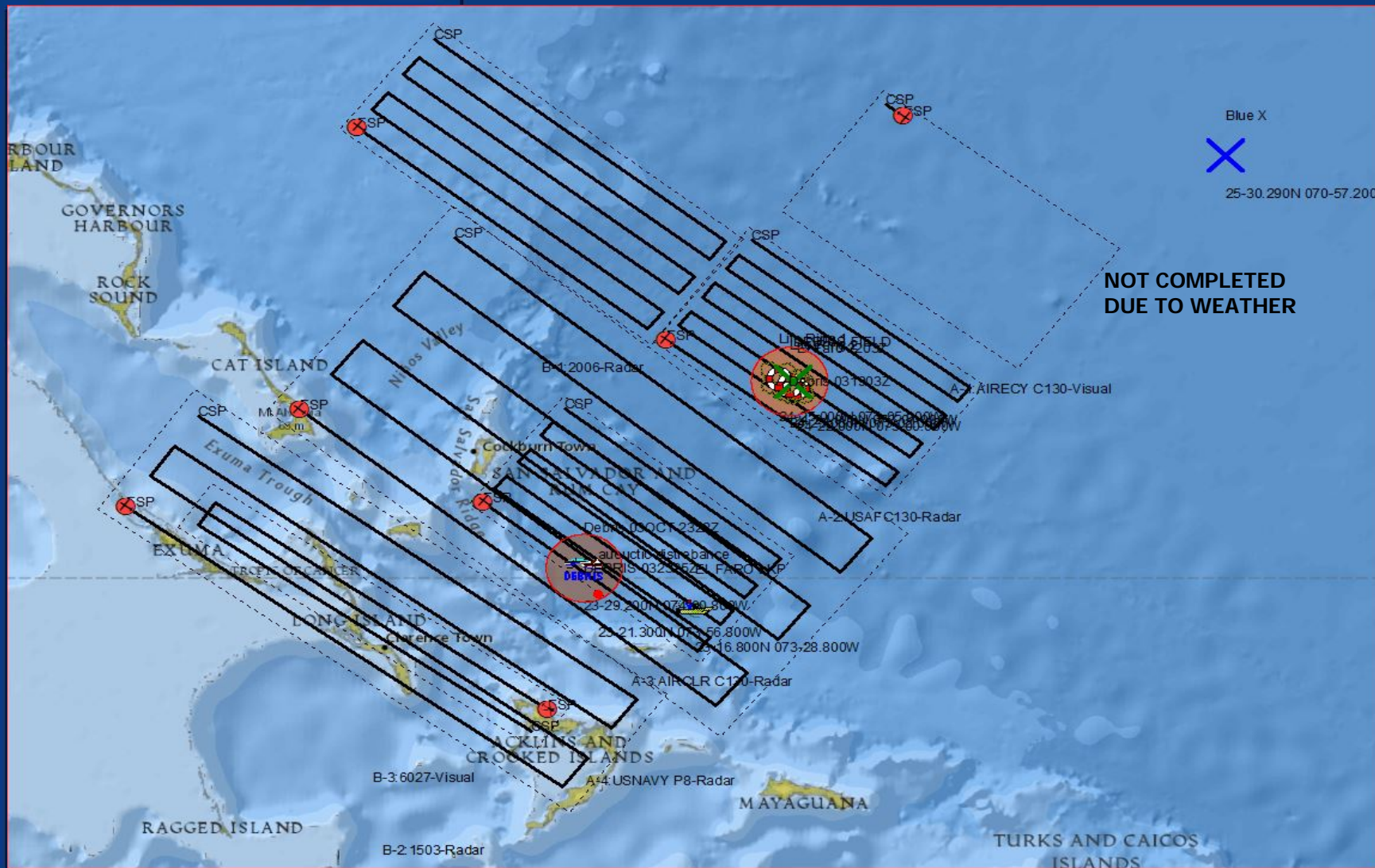
20-40 FT Sea Swells



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Searches conducted 03 OCT



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Search Efforts 03 OCT AM/PM

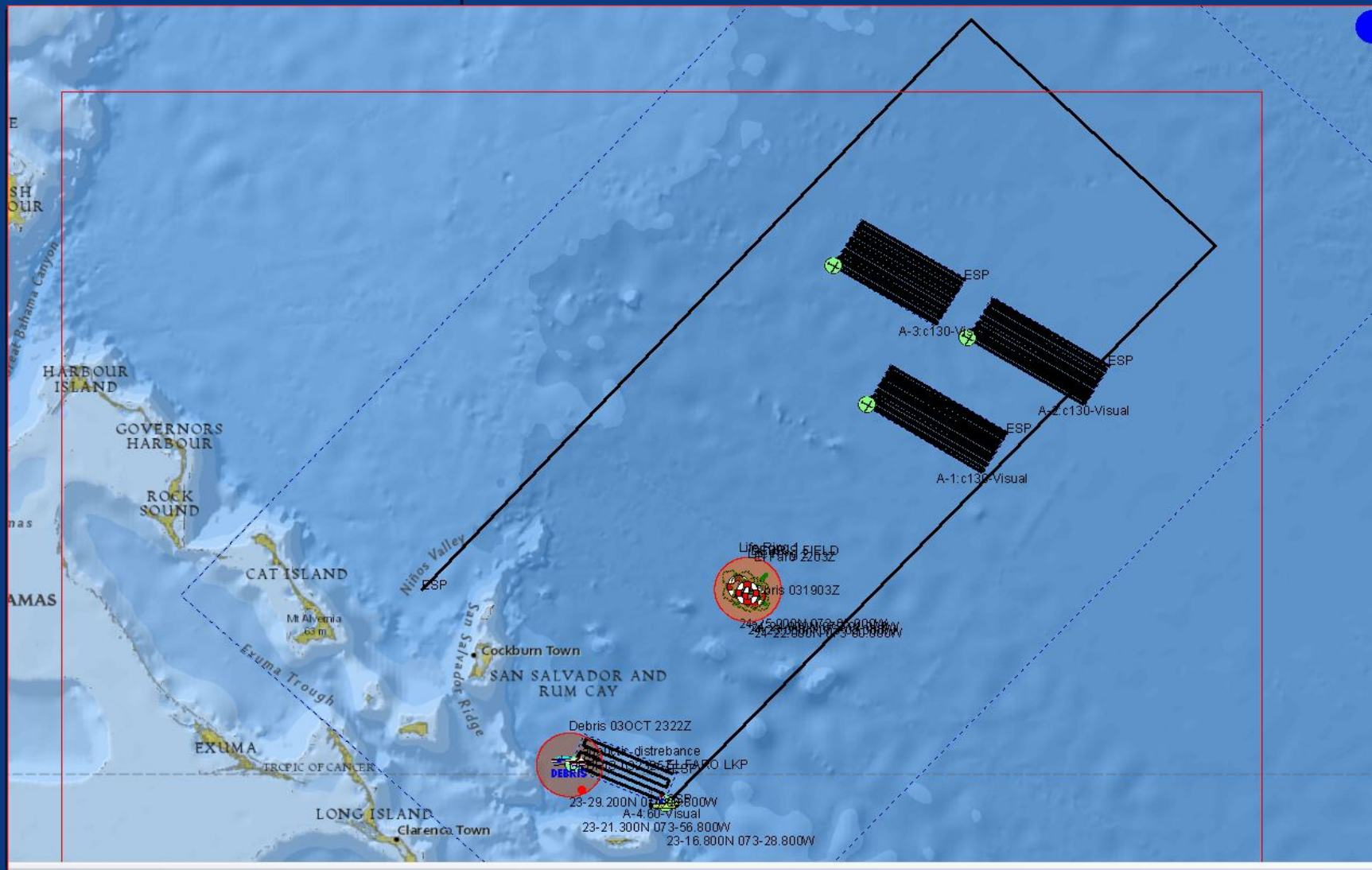
SEARCH	AREA SEARCHED	TIME SEARCHED
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1503	6671 SQNM	4HRS
SEARCH USN P8	11842 SQNM	6HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR GI CGR6027	1814 SQNM	3HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR HC-130	3060 SQNM	4HRS
SEARCH USAF HC-130	3182 SQNM	3HRS
SEARCH AIRECY HC-130	34 SQNM	4HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR2006	3978 SQNM	4HRS
TOTAL FOR DAY	30,581 SQNM	28HRS
COMPLETED		
TOTAL SORTIES: 7	TOTAL: 30,581SQNM	TOTAL: 28HRS



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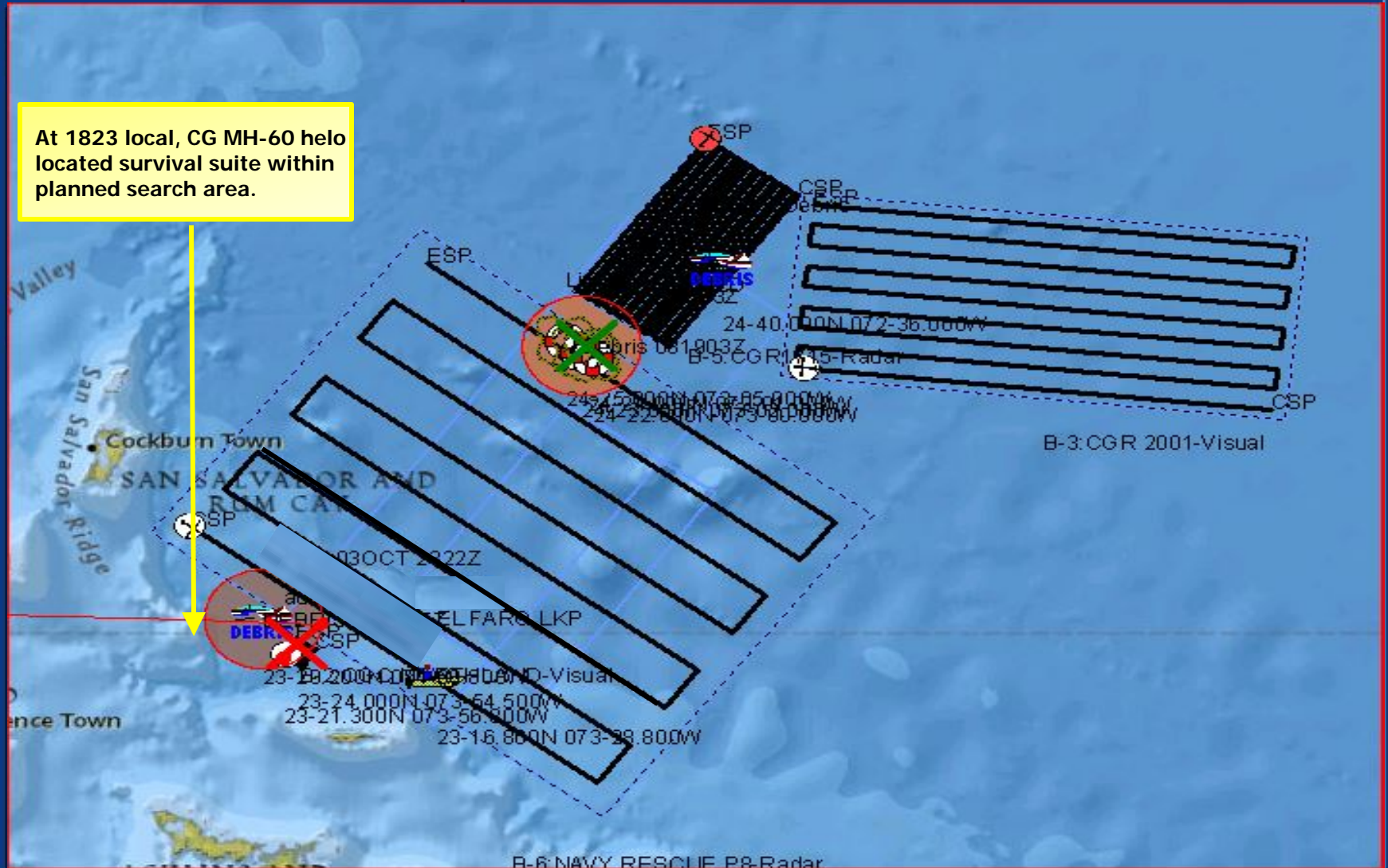
Searches conducted 04 OCT AM



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Search Efforts 04 OCT PM

At 1823 local, CG MH-60 helo located survival suite within planned search area.



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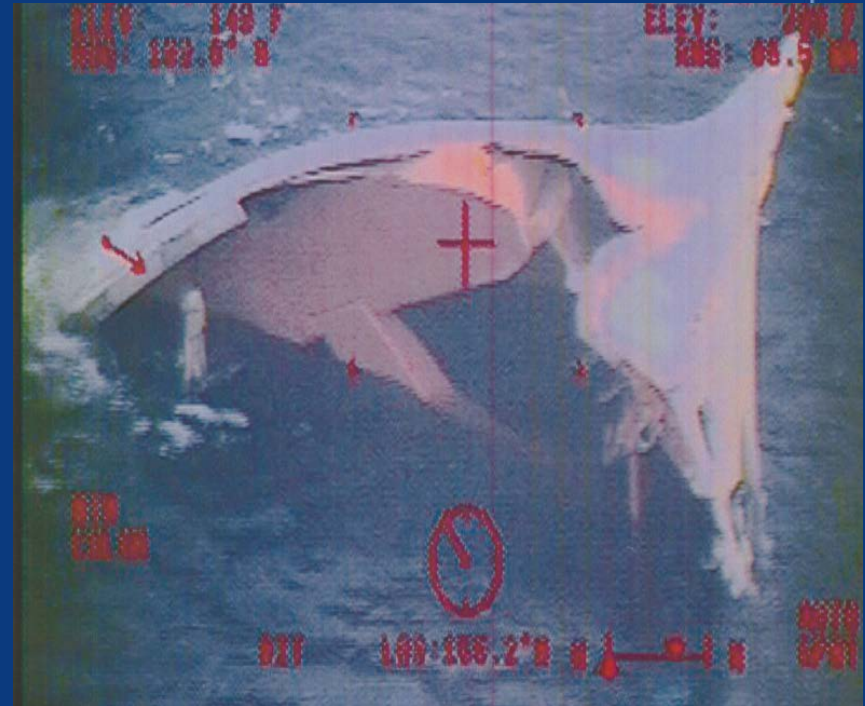


Search Efforts 04 OCT AM/PM

SEARCH	AREA SEARCHED	TIME SEARCHED
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1503	612 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH USN P8	78,200 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR GI CGR6027	352 SQNM	2 HRS
SEARCH AIRECY CGR2006	612 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1503	3397 SQNM	6 HRS
SEARCH AIRECY CGR2001	3136 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR HC-130	612 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR GI CGR6009	1530 SQNM	2 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1715	764 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH USN P8	7273 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH CGC NORTHLAND	24 SQNM	6 HRS
SEARCH CGR6566	168 SQNM	1 HR
TOTAL FOR DAY	96,680 SQNM	45 HRS
COMPLETED		
TOTAL SORTIES: 12	TOTAL: 127,261SQNM	TOTAL: 73 HRS



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- **No signs of life.**





EL FARO's Life Ring Recovered



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Weather Conditions During Searches, 04 OCT

- 15-20 KTS WINDS
- 10 NM VISIBILITY
- 2-3 FT SEAS



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Search Efforts 05 OCT AM/PM

SEARCH	AREA SEARCHED	TIME SEARCHED
SEARCH AIRECY CGR2006	551 SQNM	5 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1715	825 SQNM	6 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR GI CGR6021	275 SQNM	1HRS
SEARCH USN P8	7781 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH USN P8 (MF22)	4790 SQNM	3 HRS
SEARCH USAF HC-130 (#106)	3167 SQNM	5 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1706	6242 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH JSTARS	21,000 SQNM	1 HR
SEARCH CGC NORTHLAND	55 SQNM	24 HRS
SEACH CGC RESOLUTE	122 SQNM	5 HRS
SEACH CGC CHARLES SEXTON	43 SQNM	11 HRS
SEACH CGC RESOLUTE	6 SQNM	2 HRS
SEARCH CGC NORTHLAND	53 SQNM	12 HRS
TOTAL FOR DAY	44,910 SQNM	77 HRS
COMPLETED		
TOTAL SORTIES: 13	TOTAL: 172,171 SQNM	TOTAL: 148 HRS



Weather Conditions During Searches, 05 OCT

- 14KTS WINDS
- UNLIMITED VISIBILITY
- 2-3 FT SEAS



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05 OCT Highlights

- 10 AM Coast Guard Press Conference announcing continued search efforts for survivors. Based on debris found, CG believes the EL FARO sunk.
- US Navy P-8 aircraft continues to support search efforts utilizing a highly sensitive radar. P-8 was initially used to search for the vessel at a very high altitude which significantly increased the amount of area searched. P-8 will be used at lower altitudes on future flights to search for smaller objects.



USN P-8

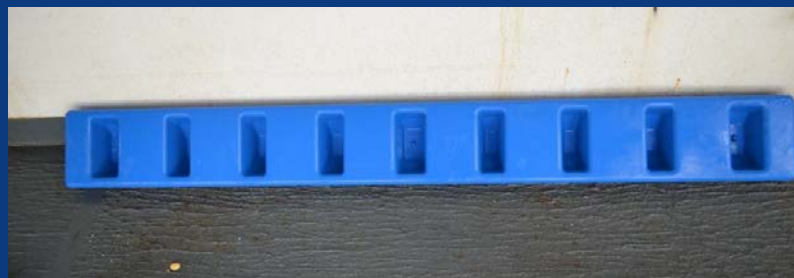


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Debris Recovered on 05 OCT

- Recovered 03 life rings, 1 Adult Universal size PFD, and 1 blue plastic parking curb (approx 5 ft long)



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Debris Recovered on 05 OCT

- Located a refrigerated cargo door possibly from the EL FARO, but too large to be brought onboard.
- Minnie Mouse dolls & dozens of dolls covering approx. 20nm area. Possible cargo o/b the EL FARO.

Minnie Mouse Doll

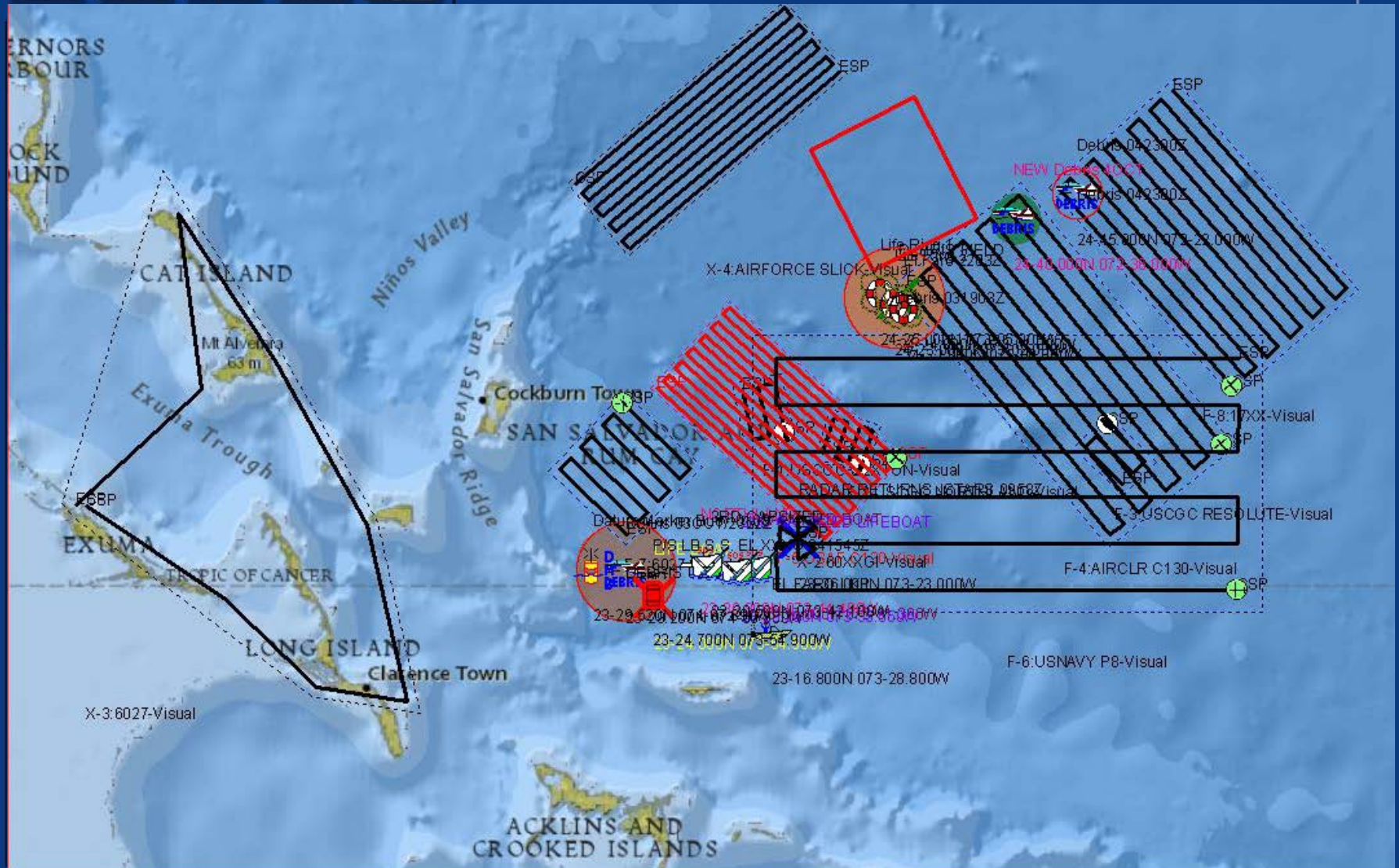


Refrigerated Cargo Door





Searches conducted 06 OCT AM/PM



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Search Efforts 06 OCT AM/PM

SEARCH	AREA SEARCHED	TIME SEARCHED
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1715	2203 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR GI CGR6027	475 SQNM	2 HRS
SEARCH USN P8	5692 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH USAF HC-130 (#106)	1102 SQNM	5 HRS
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR1503	1838 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH CGC NORTHLAND	110 SQNM	5 HRS
SEACH CGC RESOLUTE	130 SQNM	5 HRS
SEACH CGC CHARLES SEXTON	131 SQNM	5 HRS
SEARCH CGC NORTHLAND	8 SQNM	2 HRS
SEACH CGC RESOLUTE	34 SQNM	2 HRS
SEACH CGC CHARLES SEXTON	69 SQNM	2 HRS
TOTAL FOR DAY	11,792 SQNM	40 HRS
COMPLETED		
TOTAL SORTIES: 11	TOTAL:183,963 SQNM	TOTAL: 188 HRS



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Weather Conditions During Searches, 06 OCT

- 05 KTS / 190T WINDS
- 10 NM
- 1-2 FT SEAS



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Debris Recovered on 06 OCT

- Located and recovered an empty survival suit from the EL FARO.
- Located and recovered 02 soft shell coolers.

EL FARO SURVIVAL SUIT



SOFT SHELL COOLERS



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Planned Search Efforts 07 OCT

SEARCH	AREA SEARCHED	TIME SEARCHED
SEARCH AIRCLR CGR 1715	1222 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH USAF HC-130 (#106)	1041 SQNM	4 HRS
SEARCH USN P8	8865 SQNM	6 HRS
SEARCH AIRELC CGR 2006	PENDS	PENDS
SEARCH CGC NORTHLAND	143 SQNM	24 HRS
SEACH CGC RESOLUTE	197 SQNM	24 HRS
SEACH CGC CHARLES SEXTON	170 SQNM	24 HRS
TOTAL <u>PLANNED</u> FOR DAY	11,638 SQNM	86 HRS
<u>PLANNED</u>		
TOTAL <u>PLANNED</u> SORTIES: 7	TOTAL: 195,601 SQNM	TOTAL: 274 HRS



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Weather Conditions During Searches, 07 OCT

- 03 KTS / 227T WINDS
- 10 NM
- 1 FT SEAS



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